



Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead



Richard J. Bruckner
Director

January 28, 2016

TO: Stephanie Pincetl, Chair
Doug Smith, Vice Chair
David W. Louie, Commissioner
Curt Pedersen, Commissioner
Pat Modugno, Commissioner

FROM: Susan Tae, AICP, Supervising Regional Planner 
Community Studies North Section

**PLAN NO. RPPL2016000640 – COMPREHENSIVE UPDATE TO ALTADENA
COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICT
RPC MEETING: FEBRUARY 3, 2016 – AGENDA ITEM: 7x**

At your meeting on February 3, 2016, the Community Studies North Section will provide your Commission with an overview of the Altadena Community Standards District (CSD) Comprehensive Update project, and will recommend that your Commission take action to initiate the preparation of ordinance amendments to allow for a CSD update to address uses and development standards within the unincorporated community of Altadena.

BACKGROUND

In 1998, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted Ordinance No. 98-0043, which established the Altadena CSD. The most recent amendment to the Altadena CSD was adopted by the Board in 2010 to establish additional development standards for hillside management areas within the Altadena community.

In 2012, a visioning process was initiated by the County Fifth Supervisorial District, County Community Development Commission, and County Department of Regional Planning (Department), to gather community input about Altadena's future. This input was intended to set the direction for any future updates to the CSD.

Since then, the Altadena Town Council established a sub-committee (CSD Committee) to develop recommendations for a comprehensive update to the CSD. These include recommendations that address uses and development standards for residential and commercial areas.

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Staff has been working closely with the CSD Committee to achieve objectives in residential areas of maintaining the original CSD's intent to provide for light, air and privacy, as well as retaining diverse and eclectic neighborhoods that are safe and peaceful, while making the permitting process less cumbersome and rectifying unintended consequences. Other project objectives for commercial areas include encouraging a diversity of architecture and pedestrian-oriented retail as well as mixed use, increasing visibility of Altadena businesses, encouraging restaurants and outdoor dining, and creating appropriate buffers between commercial and residential properties.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based upon the foregoing, staff recommends that your Commission:

- Instruct the Department of Regional Planning to prepare an ordinance to modify provisions and maps contained within Section 22.44.127 of the County Code (Altadena CSD).
- Instruct the Department of Regional Planning to coordinate with other County Departments, including but not limited to, Department of Public Works, Fire Department, and Public Health in this effort.
- Instruct the Department of Regional Planning to prepare the appropriate environmental document.

NEXT STEPS

Upon direction by your Commission, staff will prepare the comprehensive ordinance amendment, including staff report, maps, draft ordinance and associated environmental document, for public hearing before your Commission.

If you need further information, please contact Ms. Susan Tae at (213) 974-6476 or stae@planning.lacounty.gov. Department office hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Department is closed on Fridays.

SUGGESTED MOTION

"I MOVE THAT THE REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION INSTRUCT THE DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING TO PREPARE AN AMENDMENT TO THE ALTADENA COMMUNITY STANDARDS DISTRICT, WORK WITH APPROPRIATE COUNTY DEPARTMENTS, AND PREPARE THE NECESSARY ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT."

MC:SMT:st